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25X1A

COUNTRY Spain

SUBJECT Attitude Relative to US Aid/ Political Attitude/  
Low Living Standard/Prices

DATE Nov 53

PLACE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)

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Supplement to:

DATE (OF INFO)

Jul - Sep 1953

Responsive to:

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1. From the point of view of the average Spanish citizen (exclusive of the Falangists, clergy, and aristocracy), the US is maintaining and abetting fascism by its economic support of the Franco Government and its more recent agreements relative to the establishment of US air bases in Spain. To them, the main objective of World War II was to eliminate tyrannical governments - specifically those of Hitler and Mussolini. They cannot therefore understand why the US takes actions supportive of the Franco fascist tyranny. They believe that each day of US assistance cements Franco and his regime more firmly in the saddle, and their resentment and disappointment in the US increase correspondingly. They feel that in case of another European war, all arms given to Spain will be used against the US or at least contrary to many US interests and expressed socio-political objectives. If possible, the Spanish people would seize whatever arms they could in a crisis and use them to overthrow Franco if possible, and against the US if we interfered.

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2. The Spaniards believe US aide is largely personal aid to Franco, in that it will be largely used for a big military force and military roads. There will be none of the industrial development which they consider would benefit Spain and its people in general much more by strengthening the employment base. Therefore, they are not in favor of US economic aid, for they believe it will accrue mainly to Franco and the feudal "estraperlista" surrounding him; government syndicates and monopolies will benefit, but not the people.

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3. The Spaniards and intellectuals as well as members of the working class were included, are anti-fascists. They say that in their opinion 90 per cent of the Spanish people share this basic political viewpoint. As one Spaniard put it: "We live one-half our lives pretending" /that the Franco regime is acceptable/

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25X1X [REDACTED] they are also anti-Communist but may be driven to Communism in despair and with the false hope it will free them from Franco's dictatorship. If the democratic nations fail them by further entrenching Falangist and clerical rule, they feel they will have to turn to the USSR. "We would rather be Communists than fight for Franco."

4. The poverty and miserable living conditions to be found in Spain are hard to believe unless you see them. Some families live in caves, five to eight people per small hovel. In Barcelona, in las Barracas (Montjuich y alreredire de Barcelona) three or four families can be found living in three or four rooms. Wages are too low to permit self improvement (eg 125 pesetas/wk for a laborer working 10-14 hrs/day; 600 - 1200 pesetas/mo for a public employee or civil servant; 2-5,000 pesetas/mo for judges, public officials, and university professors ). Small boys eight years old can be found running elevators from 6 PM to 1 AM in the early morning, with ten minutes rest at 11 PM. There are labor laws supposedly outlawing such employment, but like everything else they are book rather than practical (ie effective) laws. A number of Spanish women [REDACTED] prayed that they would not have children, for they did not wish them to have to live in Spain as it is today. Poor children never go to school.

25X1X 5. The prices of living necessities / [REDACTED] / are as follows, (These are prices for the general public; clergy, military personnel and other privileged groups can buy at a discount - Economatos):

	<u>Pesetas</u>	<u>US\$</u>
Apartment (5 rooms, no heat, no elevator)	900-1500/Mo	
Apartment (7 rooms, heat, elevator)	2-3000/Mo	
Man's suit	1200-3000	32-78
Pair shoes	250-600	6.35 - 15.50
Kilo meat	40-50	1.10 - 1.35
Kilo bread	5	15¢
Dozen eggs	20-30	
Kilo rice or other grain	12	
Kilo bacon	100-120	
Kilo chicken	50-70	1.25
Kilo sugar	11	28¢
Liter milk	3.5 - 4	13¢
Liter cooking oil	12-15	35 - 40¢
Kilo butter	60	1.51
Kilo fruits and vegetables (varying by season)	5-30	15 - 40¢
Kilo fish (varying by season)	15-30	40 - 90¢

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